

# Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes



NPA:  
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : \_\_10\_\_ / \_\_23\_\_ / \_\_19\_\_

Start Time: (Commence): 7:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Robert E. Miller Center \_\_\_\_\_

Finish Time: (Adjourn): \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00PM \_\_\_\_\_

Note taker: \_\_\_\_\_ Kelt Wilska \_\_\_\_\_

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

## Discussion Topics

- Ground Rules, Introductions, and Announcements
- Community Engagement with Elected Officials
- Food Drive Proposal for North End Food Pantry Project
- North Avenue Alliance Church Update
- City-Wide Reappraisal Project

Actions Taken / Decisions Made : N/A

## Agenda Items and Actions:

### Ground Rules, Introductions, and Announcements

- Volunteer with newly formed community dinner. Over 80 people tonight. Great opportunity to connect with neighbors. Next meeting/dinner is 11/20.
- New North End book club. 20 people came to first meeting, big success. Reading *The Power* by Naomi Alderman. Silver Roots Brewery. Check FPF
- Openings for Steering Committee Members

### Community Engagement with Elected Officials

#### School Board

Monica

- Restorative practices in the district. Featured in January article. Don't want to use punitive punishment, want to build community and have discussion circles. Third year of implementation, with each school having its own restorative practice team. Pyramid of restorative practice. Discussion and understanding, then repairing and restoring. Tier 1, tier 2. Article about our After School program. 2pm-6m is highest rate of crime. AS is great opportunity to keep kids busy

Kendra

-Equal Pay. BHS girls soccer team got idea for shirts from U.S. women's team. NPR, Anderson Cooper, lots of great publicity. Raising money for GBGSL for Equal Pay campaign. Sold 2500 jerseys. Finding more equity causes. Come support them for playoffs. Playing again on Saturday. Pick up a yellow card, [equalpayjerseys.com](http://equalpayjerseys.com). Boys team has been very supportive, great community effort.

Gina

-Last session, CCV and TCV will partner with adult night school throughout the state to create a statewide tech program for night school. Goal to roll this out in June. Vice Chair of House Commerce. Been traveling for Vermont Labor Summit. Interviewing workers and employers. Interesting to see different workforce needs. Governor has been to all counties. Tip of the spear is workforce development and key is tech ed. No post-secondary culinary arts schools except NECI. Tech centers can be opened up at night, workers can become ServSafe-certified

Carol

-Environment and Economy were important issues while door-knocking. Agricultural working landscape contributes to our economy. Legislature has passed two programs: farmers contributing to environmental stewardship can get financial and technical assistance in return. Establishing rivers and buffers along stream, they can get help from the state. You will start to see more and more vegetative buffers to prevent soil erosion. Regenerative farming. Vermont's farmlands and forests can be carbon sequestration sources. House Agricultural Committee will focus on land stewardship.

Curt

-Councilors will wear Equal Pay shirts. Water Rights meeting next week. Bike path continuing south now. City is turning it back into a world-class bike path. St. Paul's Street: contacted contractors to say that the intersection was a disaster, changes have been made. Update on City Place at Council meeting Monday night. Expect to hear a full update.

Q+A

Q: Can you please make sure that the mics are working at Council meetings?

A: Channel 17 will address this.

Q: Fall is the start of the budget building process. What conversations is School Board having about sustainability of budget?

A: Not a lot of leeway to discuss budget at this time. Not breaking ground this spring, will advocate for a sustainable budget. Enrollment statewide is going down while costs are going up. EL, reduced lunch and special needs students contribute to these costs

Q: Hope you can find more creative solutions instead of going to taxpayers.

A: Any ideas, please send our way.

Q: Change the structure.

A: Not within what we can do.

Rep. Paulino

-Burlington Telecom. City has one year within closing to buy an interest. Options to pay 2.5 million to get a board seat on behalf of the city. Strong feelings on both sides of this decision.

-Housing reform initiative. Additional dwelling units within residential lots. Concern was parking. There will be public forums about this.

-Second initiative is to raise tax for the housing trust fund. Used to create more affordable housing.

-Regulating Airbnb rentals

-Reducing parking requirements for new developments

-Non-citizen voting initiative, will go to public forum. Will be a ballot item

Q: Won't delaying the school breaking ground reduce the amount we get by 5%? Maybe we have too many consultants

A: We've been given the opposite advice. Tariffs have increased costs, advice from builders has been to wait until tariffs are reduced.

Q: Deeply concerned about the housing initiatives. As homeowner and landlord, tenants already have more rights than I do. Taxes have already gone up this year. No longer feasible for my family to keep this property. Why does the city think that it and tenants have more rights than I do? Any additional costs will go to my tenants.

A: (Paulino) Curt and I are very sensitive to raising taxes. Just because we support increasing housing supply in Burlington doesn't mean we aren't aware of the tax raises. I'd rather have a cushion for sidewalks and roads so we don't have to raise taxes for those.

Q: Can we count on you to vote against all of those measures?

A: (Curt) Cannot commit, voted to go to committee but not be voted through yet until I've seen details. Strengthened a resolution to make sure that we're getting as much as possible via dividends from Burlington Telecom deal. Many companies bid on Burlington Telecom

Q: Franklin said that Housing Trust taxes will increase significantly. It says here that it will go from half a cent to a penny. Pennies for parks went up half a cent

A: Those are the numbers I had in mind. I think it was significant, some people even want to go further.

#### Dave Hartnett: Food Drive Proposal

-Important to attend these meetings

-Halloween Food Drive for New North End

-Been run by one person: Tom Fleury

-Needs work and help. Open two days a week 9-11 on Saturday and Sunday. We've decided to make this an effort we want to expand

-This Halloween, you can donate three different ways. Boxes at the bagel table, box at Mobile next to Dominos on North Ave, partnered with North Avenue Alliance Church Trunk and Treat, box will be there as well.

-High school and Rock Point School student volunteers

-Important to get involved and make a difference

-Erica will be at Trunk and Treat. I (Franklin) will be there as well. Any nutrient-dense shelf stable-items in high demand. Mayonnaise, cereal, peanut butter, nuts

-Weekly updates on FPF

Q: Which Saturday?

A: Food pantry is open every Saturday, but drive will be on Halloween Thursday. You can still make a donation at the pantry during open hours.

Q: Please remember health items

A: Was approached at dinner prior to this meeting by a dietician willing to offer classes. Sanitary items discussed as well.

Q: Bagel drive is all day long?

A: Yes, and the Mobile.

Q: Happy to help pick up in the morning.

Q: Big red bin in the back of this room is for food donations

-Anyone that has a daughter who plays high school softball, we are getting a softball field at the park.

-9-3 Monday-Friday food drop-offs at North Avenue Alliance Church

-We're not just raising food for the food drive. Part of a bigger initiative to get more community involvement with the food pantry so they can either buy the building or make a 1c3

#### Matt Baumgartner

-Faith community at the entrance to the New North End

-New sign Under New Management

- Stepping into a new moment at NAAC
- 30 years ago was booming
- 800 seats, now only 150 attendees
- Church administration has recognized need for church, paired NAAC with Essex Alliance Church to reinvigorate.
- Governing authority of the church has shifted from an internal board to Essex and other members
- Good percentage of our church community lives in the New North End. We believe in the common good, looking to partner with city organizations like food pantry
- My title is campus pastor. Pastor on site here with Essex church partnership.
- Trunk and Treat, looking for same number of kids. Al's French Fry and Texas Road House have donated food, fire department will be there as well

Q: Can regular people donate candy?

A: Will take candy donations ahead of time and redistribute to accommodate allergies

Q: Most of the kids come from this neighborhood?

A: Yes, and most of them walk

Q: Costumes and age range?

A: Yes costumes, just not scary. No age range

### John Vickery

- Last appraisal was in 2005, mandated by state tax department to reassess
- State would withhold education funding if we did not follow through
- Moving to a new software platform. Market has changed in last 13 years, improved but not at the same rate. Inequities among property types and locations
- Info available on website
- Hired Tyler Technologies for reappraisal. Team of appraisers will be onsite over next two years
- Will be another year and a half until values are changed
- Sent out letters to all residences with notice of reappraisal
- Want folks to get involved with making corrections to your property data. In January 2021, there will be informal public appeal hearings to review evaluations

Q: How does the New North End rank in terms of current appraisals?

A: All values have increased over last 13 years. We're going to correct that problem but at different rates. South End has bigger appreciation and will thus see bigger adjustment. New North End will see smaller adjustment overall. Will be quite uniform.

Q: Brief example of what kind of adjustments could happen and why?

A: Our job is to appraise properties based on added value. Bigger items like new kitchen and new bathroom with new basement, not so much with a new roof or a few new windows.

Q: When is the best time to get involved in you have a question about the reappraisal?

A: Informal appeal hearings in January 2021. Another more official opportunity in April 2021, with a process to move beyond that. Want people to come down to the office and visit us. Want to have all the factual info.

Q: Appraisal was incorrect, said we had a fireplace and central air. What should we do?

A: That's exactly the purpose of the mailer. You can come into the office and correct details with us.

Q: Is the city going to have more money because of reappraisal or will taxes go down?

A: 75% of market value. Adjusted value will be 4.8 billion approximately. Tax rate will drop down equitably to approx 68 cents. Should be revenue-neutral

Q: How is our tax rate versus other cities in Chittenden County? Do you speak with other tax-paying organizations about this?

A: Not sure, haven't looked recently. I direct questions to appropriate departments

Q: Submitted revised data on online form. Could you go over the opportunities to ensure that this data will be revised?

A: Informal hearings in January 2021. We look at mass data to ensure fairness.

Q: Corrected mailer will be reflected in July tax bill?

A: That info will be inputted into valuation software over the next several months. Will not necessarily change values for smaller items, will adjust for larger renovations

Q: What can we expect from the appraiser when they knock on our door?

A: They will have an ID and background check. Licensed appraisers. Fewer appraisers this time but more trained. No mandate for them to walk through your house. Start in the basement and work their way up. Get factual info correct, assess quality and condition of the home

Q: If I tell you now about a 1 million dollar increase, will it be reflected in next year's tax?

A: Yes your assessment should change. Insignificant adjustments will not be evaluated this rotation

Q: Does neighborhood have an impact on home value?

A: Yes.

Q: Will sidewalks affect my house value?

A: If the market recognizes that, then the assessments should as well. For example, on North Ave versus off: there is a difference in value. Come into the office to talk about this

Q: Based on sales from when to when?

A: We've hired someone to specifically examine past three years' sales and sales up until January 2021.

Looking at market changes. Older sales would need a readjustment.

Q: How many homes will actually be visited?

A: Attempts to physically inspect approx 41%, but all properties will get a review via software

Q: What are some other external factors that can affect the value of our properties? How does privately owned versus rental properties affect value

A: Assess based on market. Lot of external factors, including heavy traffic. On North End less than off. New supermarkets another example.

Q: Given that we've been underpaying taxes, will this affect prebates?

A: Will have an effect on them, values will be adjusted to market. Equalization rate will go to 100% and lower state education tax rate. Income adjustment will change as well. Homestead declaration rate is less than non- in this city, different from the rest of the state.

Q: Why has it been 13 years? What should it have been?

A: Don't know why, out of my control. Would like to move to a system where values are adjusted every year. We're not yet set up for that system.

Q: When the appeals process takes place, is the income of the individual taken into account?

A: Vermont bases taxes on property value. State decided to shift to an income-based adjustment 15 or so years ago. No adjustment for age but for disabled veterans. Make sure to declare your homestead.

Q: We have a private road. How is that looked at? Who would I contact about incorrect appraisals?

A: Contact me directly and come down to the office. Sidewalks may affect value. Will look at sold properties closest to your home. Sales outside of that area will be weighted secondarily. Come down to the office next week. City Hall ground floor.

Q: Will evaluation on income be raised and when?

A: No. State program, out of my jurisdiction. You file taxes, we collect that information, applies to your property. We do administration and find corrections.

Q: If there was a credit for senior citizens, could it be put into place at the Burlington level or would it be state level?

A: Usually Burlington has to go through a charter change, approved by council and then voters and then state legislature.

-Website has timeline and lots of information on this process.

Adjourn 8:55